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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement.

The internet is too important to have it controlled by one company or one person. The proposed settlement by John Ashcroft and the DOJ will not slow Microsoft from their ultimate goal, control of the internet and all commerce that uses the internet. This has been known for years, but has not been addressed.

To gain any control over the internet, they must control the servers. The proposed settlement does nothing to keep them from leveraging their monopoly into the server market. If they control the servers, they can force all competing browsers and OS's off the internet by changing protocols. The settlement only appears to stop them from excluding competitors, but actually gives them permission to exclude them. Microsoft will be allowed to determine who is a "viable business" and who is not. Judging from their past behavior, I doubt that any potential competitor will pass the viability test. This give too much power to Microsoft. It gives them life or death to any business or technology they want to destroy.

I doubt that Apache, their main competitor in the server market will be deemed worthy by Microsoft. All they will have to do is change a protocol and refuse to allow Apache servers to use it. Apache is free and opensource, and not controlled by any one person or company like Microsoft or IBM. They could say that Apache, or any company using Apache is not viable, and there is nothing anyone can do about it.

I thought if you are found guilty of a crime, you got punished. After reading the settlement, it appears they are being handed the keys to the internet. Please don't reward crime by allowing the settlement endorsed by DOJ and Ashcroft, the internet is too important to be turned over to Microsoft.

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